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MISCOUNTED



In 2 states, 1 in 20 residents missed during US head count


In this April 1, 2019, photo, Noelle Fries, 6, left, and Galen Biel, 6, both of Minneapolis, attend a rally at the Minnesota Capitol to kick off a year-long drive to try to ensure that all Minnesota residents are counted in the 2020 census.

Associated Press
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In 2 states, 1 in 20 residents missed during US head count

From Front

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

Around 1 in 20 residents in Arkansas and Tennessee were missed during the 2020 census, and four other U.S. states had significant undercounts of their populations which could short-change them of federal funding in the current decade, according to figures from a survey the U.S. Census Bureau released Thursday.

In Florida, and Texas, undercounts appear to have cost them congressional seats too.

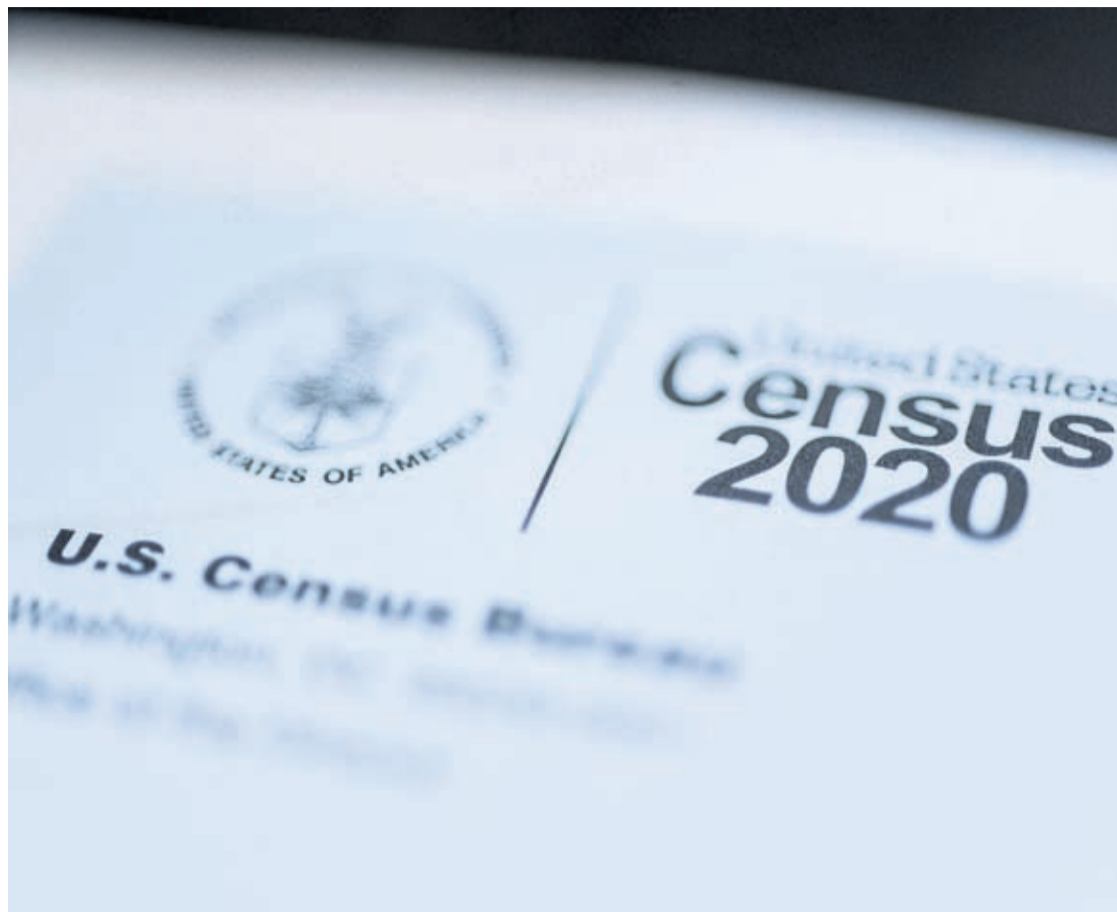
On the flip side, residents in eight states were overcounted during the once-a-decade head count that is used to allocate political power and federal funding. In Minnesota and Rhode Island, overcounts appear to have saved them from losing congressional seats.

In the remaining 36 states and the District of Columbia, the overcounts and undercounts were not statistically significant. Undercounts signal people were missed. Overcounts suggest they were counted more than once, as for example, children of divorced parents who share custody or people with vacation homes.

The figures released Thursday from the Post-Enumeration Survey serve as a report card on how well residents in the 50 states and District of Columbia were counted during a census that faced unprecedented obstacles from a pandemic, hurricanes and wildfires, social unrest and political interference by the Trump administration.

The survey re-interviews a sample of residents and compares those results to the census to see "what we did right and what we did wrong," said Census Bureau official Timothy Kenel.

States that did a better job of getting residents counted scored greater Electoral College and congressional representation, or did not lose expected seats in the House of Representatives.



Residents have begun receiving the U.S. Census Bureau's request for information receiving letters with a census identification number to answer questions about their households online.

Associated Press

They also are now better positioned for the annual distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding in the coming decade.

Nothing can be done at this point to change how many congressional seats are allocated among the states, and neither can the data used for redrawing congressional districts be adjusted.

Thursday's release did not break down by demographic traits how good a job the 2020 census did at the state level, but a national report card released in March showed significant undercounts for the Black and Hispanic populations, as well as for those identifying as some other race and American Indians and Native Alaskans living on reservations.

Academics and civil rights leaders are pressing the Census Bureau to tweak yearly population estimates that traditionally have used census numbers as their foundation and incorporate other data sources to produce a more accurate portrait of the undercounted racial and ethnic communities for the numbers that help determine the distribution of federal fund-

ing. The Census Bureau has set up a team to explore this.

Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Illinois respectively had undercounts of 5%, 4.8%, 4.1% and 1.9%, while Florida and Texas respectively had undercounts of almost 3.5% and 1.9%.

Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee and Texas did not direct as many resources as other states in encouraging residents to fill out census forms. Mississippi spent around \$400,000 and Illinois allocated \$29 million toward those efforts. Historically, groups that have undercounts are racial and ethnic minorities, renters and young children.

In a statement, Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchison said he was interested in getting more details on his state's undercount, especially since Arkansas grew by more than 95,000 residents over the decade and surpassed 3 million residents for the first time.

Demographer Allison Plyer also observed that Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee have among the highest rates of households without a computer or internet subscription. The 2020 census was the first head count

in which most participants were encouraged to fill out the form online.

"Get-out-the-count efforts can make a big difference, even when your community has poor internet access and is less likely to answer the census," said Plyer, chief demographer of The Data Center in New Orleans.

"Where states prioritized, get-out-the-count, it looks like it made a difference." Florida's undercount translates into around 750,600 missed residents, and an analysis by Election Data Services shows the Sunshine State needed only around 171,500 more residents to gain an extra seat. The undercount in Texas translates into around 560,000 residents, while the Election Data Services analysis put Texas as needing only 189,000 more residents to gain another congressional seat.

Hispanics make up more than a quarter of Florida's population and almost 40% of Texas residents, and critics say the Trump administration's failed efforts to add a citizenship question to the census form may have had a chilling effect on the participation of His-

panics, immigrants and others.

Arturo Vargas, CEO of NALEO Educational Fund, said there was a "desperate need" for information about undercounts and overcounts of racial and ethnic groups at geographies smaller than states, especially in places like Texas where the undercount most likely was in the Hispanic population.

Given the inaccuracies in the count, there is a real risk of an unfair distribution of congressional seats among the states, he said.

"Without knowing below the state level, we aren't able to understand the extent of that error," Vargas said.

It was a different story for states where residents were overcounted, like Minnesota and Rhode Island. Minnesota was allocated the 435th and final congressional seat in the House of Representatives; if Minnesota had counted 26 fewer people, that seat would have gone to New York. Minnesota's 3.8% overcount amounted to around 219,000 residents.

Other states with overcounts were Hawaii, at almost 6.8%; Delaware, at 5.4%; New York, at 3.4%; Utah, at almost 2.6%; Massachusetts, at 2.2%; and Ohio, at almost 1.5%.

In Rhode Island, the 5% overcount translates into more than 55,000 residents. It would have lost a seat if 19,000 fewer residents had been counted, according to Election Data Services.

John Marion, executive director of the government watchdog group Common Cause Rhode Island, said it was difficult to pinpoint exactly why Rhode Island had such a large overcount. There were significant outreach efforts and the state has a large summer home population, but the same applied to other states, he said.

"We're essentially the lucky beneficiary of a statistical anomaly," Marion said. "And as a result, we'll have more representation in Congress for 10 years." □

CDC advisers urge Pfizer booster for children ages 5 to 11

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Kids ages 5 to 11 should get a booster dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, advisers to the U.S. government said Thursday.

If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agrees, as expected, it would open a third COVID-19 shot to healthy elementary-age kids — just like what is already recommended for everybody 12 and older.

The hope is that an extra shot will shore up protection for kids ages 5 to 11 as infections once again are on the rise.

Earlier this week, the Food and Drug Administration authorized Pfizer's kid-sized booster, to be offered at least five months after the youngsters' last shot.

The CDC takes the next step of recommending who actually needs vaccinations. Its advisers debated if all otherwise healthy 5- to 11-year-olds need an extra dose, especially since so many children were infected during the huge winter surge of the omicron variant.

But the U.S. now is averaging 100,000 new cases a day for the first time since February. And ultimately,



A nurse holds a vial of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11, right, and a vial of the vaccine for adults, which has a different colored label, at a vaccination station in Jackson, Miss., Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022.

the CDC's advisers pointed to growing evidence from older kids and adults that two primary vaccinations plus a booster are providing the best protection against the newest coronavirus variants.

"This always perhaps should have been a three-dose vaccine," said Dr. Grace Lee of Stanford University, who chairs the CDC's advisory panel.

The booster question isn't

the hottest vaccine topic: Parents still are anxiously awaiting a chance to vaccinate kids under 5 — the only group not yet eligible in the U.S.

Dr. Doran Fink of the Food and Drug Administration said the agency is working "as rapidly as we can" to evaluate an application from vaccine maker Moderna, and is awaiting final data on the littlest kids from rival Pfizer. The FDA's own

advisers are expected to publicly debate data from one or both companies next month.

For the 5- to 11-year-olds, it's not clear how much booster demand there will be. Only about 30% of that age group have had the initial two Pfizer doses since vaccinations opened to them in November.

CDC adviser Dr. Helen Keipp Talbot of Vanderbilt University said health au-

thorities must put more effort into getting youngsters their initial shots.

"That needs to be a priority," she said.

Thursday's decision also means that 5- to 11-year-olds with severely weakened immune systems, who are supposed to get three initial shots, would be eligible for a fourth dose.

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech currently make the only COVID-19 vaccine available for children of any age in the U.S. Those ages 5 to 11 receive a dose that's one-third the amount given to everyone 12 and older.

In a small study, Pfizer found a booster revved up those kids' levels of virus-fighting antibodies — including those able to fight the super-contagious omicron variant — the same kind of jump adults get from an extra shot.

Vaccines may not always prevent milder infections, and the omicron variant proved especially able to slip past their defenses. But CDC cited data during the omicron surge that showed unvaccinated 5- to 11-year-olds had twice the rate of hospitalization as youngsters who got their first two doses. □

Associated Press

Harris meets with abortion providers as court ruling looms

By CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris, embracing her role as one of the administration's most outspoken defenders of abortion rights, spoke Thursday with abortion providers from states with some of the country's strictest restrictions, saying they are "on the front lines of this war on women's rights."

The virtual conversation, which Harris hosted from the White House complex, came weeks after the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion suggesting that justices are on the brink of overturning the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion na-

tionwide.

Justices are expected to issue their final ruling in the next six weeks, but some states with Republican leaders are already laying the groundwork to ban abortion outright if the court allows individual states to set their own rules for the procedure.

Shortly before Harris began her meeting, Oklahoma lawmakers passed what might be the most restrictive abortion ban in the country, preventing the procedure in all cases except to save the life of a pregnant woman or if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest that has been reported to law enforcement.

"It's outrageous, and it's just the latest in a series of extreme laws from around the country," Harris said. She said the rules were designed to "punish and control women."

In addition to Oklahoma, the abortion providers who participated in the meeting were from Kansas, Texas, Missouri and Montana. Other states with less restrictive laws are preparing for a potential influx of patients if more bans going into effect.

Much as President Joe Biden has done, Harris said other court rulings that allowed access to contraception and legalized same sex marriage could also be at risk.



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a virtual meeting with abortion providers from the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Associated Press

"It would be a direct assault on the fundamental right of self determination, to live and love without interference from the government," she said.

The Biden administration has few options available to protect abortion, especially since legislation to safeguard access failed in the Senate last week. □

Grand jury indicts man in Buffalo supermarket shooting

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The white man accused of killing 10 Black people at a supermarket in Buffalo appeared in court Thursday, standing silently during a brief proceeding attended by some relatives of the victims after a grand jury indicted him.

Payton Gendron, 18, wore an orange jail uniform, a mask and handcuffs. As he was led out, someone shouted "Payton, you're a coward!" from the courtroom gallery. He is being held in jail without bail.

Assistant district attorney Gary Hackbush said the first-degree murder indictment, which covers all 10 deaths, was handed up Wednesday.

Thirteen people in all were shot Saturday at the Tops Friendly Market in a predominantly Black neighborhood of Buffalo. Authorities are continuing to investigate the possibility of hate crime and terrorism charges.

District attorney John Flynn said his office would not comment on the case while the grand jury investigation continues.

Gendron's lawyers also declined comment, according to defense attorney Daniel DuBois.

Relatives of several victims



Payton Gendron is led into the courtroom for a hearing at Erie County Court, in Buffalo, N.Y., Thursday, May 19, 2022.

met privately with the Rev. Al Sharpton before joining him at a news conference outside of Buffalo's Antioch Baptist Church. Sharpton said his civil rights group, the National Action Network, would cover funeral expenses for those killed in the attack.

"These hate crimes need to be stopped," Sharpton said. "We need to hold all that have aided and abetted the hate in this country accountable."

Sharpton said the innocent victims of the gunman "were guilty of being

Black."

Gendron, 18, livestreamed the attack from a helmet camera before surrendering to police outside the grocery store. Shortly before the attack, he posted hundreds of pages of writings to online discussion groups where he detailed his plans for the assault and his racist motivation.

Investigators have been examining those documents, which included a private diary he kept on the chat platform Discord.

At his initial court appearance last week, Gendron's

court-appointed lawyer entered a plea of "not guilty" on his behalf. He is due back in court June 9.

Five days after the shooting, officials announced Thursday that evidence collection at the supermarket was completed. Tops Market president John Persons pledged to open the store as soon as possible, but said he could not give a timeline.

The massacre at the Tops supermarket was unsettling even in a nation that has become almost numb to mass shootings. All but two

of the 13 people shot during the attack were Black. Gendron's online writings said he planned the assault after becoming infatuated with white supremacist ideology he encountered online.

Stephen Belongia, the FBI's lead agent in Buffalo, said agents were still working to piece together Gendron's motives and how he came to his extremist views.

"An important part of these sorts of incidents is to tell the whole story that may not be heard in a courtroom at a later date — to understand, to the extent that you can, what the motives are of this gunman, how he became radicalized, what he was reading, where he was reading it, who he was inspired by," Belongia said at a news briefing.

The diary said Gendron planned his attack in secret, with no outside help, but Discord confirmed Wednesday that an invitation to access his private writings was sent to a small group of people about 30 minutes before the assault began.

Some of them accepted the invitation. It was unclear how many read what he had written or logged on to view the assault live. It also wasn't clear whether anyone tried to alert law enforcement. □

Associated Press



Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro speaks at the 80th Pearl Harbor Anniversary ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, in Honolulu.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced Thursday that a future destroyer will be named the USS Telesforo Trinidad in

honor of a Filipino sailor who rescued two crew members when their ship caught fire more than a century ago.

Fireman Telesforo De La

Navy ship to be named for Filipino sailor Telesforo Trinidad

Cruz Trinidad is the only Filipino in the U.S. Navy to be awarded the Medal of Honor. He received the honor for his actions on the USS San Diego in 1915 and at a time when it could be awarded for noncombat valor. "Since being sworn in as Secretary, I have wanted to honor his heroic actions by naming a ship after him," Del Toro said in a statement released Thursday. "This ship and her future crew will be a critical piece in strengthening our maritime superiority while also emphasizing the rich culture and history of our naval heritage."

The news cheered Asian Americans, veterans and civilians in both the U.S. and the Philippines who had urged the naming. They said a named ship would also honor the tens of thousands of Filipinos and Americans of Filipino descent who have served in the U.S. Navy since 1901, when the Philippines was a United States territory. Trinidad, who died in 1968 at age 77, was aboard the USS San Diego in January 1915 when boilers exploded, killing nine. He was among the more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers who served in World War

II, including thousands who died during the brutal 1942 Bataan Death March in the Philippines.

A future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer will bear Trinidad's name, Del Toro said. Thursday's statement said the destroyers are the backbone of the U.S. Navy's surface fleet.

In January 2020, Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly named a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier after Doris "Dorie" Miller, an African American enlisted sailor who received the Navy Cross for his actions during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. □

Britain, Rwanda defend asylum-seekers plan at UN agencies

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Britain and Rwanda on Thursday faced down two United Nations agencies that have sharply criticized their controversial plan in which Britain expects to send some asylum-seekers from the U.K. to the African country.

In an interview with The Associated Press before meeting top officials from the U.N. human rights and refugee agencies, Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta acknowledged it was “fine that they be concerned,” adding that the discussion was aimed “to bring them on board” to work with the two countries.

The U.N. refugee agency chief, in remarks on Twitter, sounded unconvinced.

Under the plan unveiled last month, British officials said they will send to migrants arriving in the U.K. illegally often as stowaways or in small boats crossing the English Channel to Rwanda. There the migrants’ asylum claims will be processed, and if successful, the migrants will stay there.

U.N. officials and other critics particularly in the two countries raised human rights concerns and warned such a move goes against the international



Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta, left, and Britain's Home Secretary Priti Patel, right, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Refugee Convention. British Home Secretary Priti Patel said Britain had seen over 20,000 people enter illegally over the last year, and insisted that her Conservative government along with Rwanda was “finding new innovative solutions to global problems” amid a crisis of illegal immigration. She insisted the plan was about saving lives of people taken by smugglers on often-treacherous journeys to try to reach Britain.

“I’m afraid other organiza-

tions and other countries, you know, are not coming up with alternatives and the status quo is simply not acceptable anymore,” she said. The meetings come a day after Patel’s office, hosting Biruta in London, announced that a “first tranche of illegal migrants with no right to be in the UK have now been notified” of the British government’s intention to relocate them to Rwanda.

Patel declined to specify how many people would be in that first group, how

they arrived in Britain, or how many people overall might be sent to Rwanda under the plan, saying “we don’t share our operational details.”

She decried “a lot of deliberate misinformation” about the people who would be sent to Rwanda. She also touted her country’s “outstanding record of resettling people and hosting migrants and refugees” — noting 15,000 people were brought from Afghanistan to Britain and the issuance of 100,000 visas

to Ukrainians. Patel sought to distinguish between legal routes to entry, which Britain welcomes, and the approaches by some migrants who try to enter illegally.

The ministers met with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, who last month — the same day when Britain’s parliament passed a bill on asylum and nationality regretted approval of the U.K. government’s proposal for a new approach to asylum that “undermines established international refugee protection law and practices.”

When the program the Migration and Economic Development Partnership was announced in mid-April, Grandi’s assistant high commissioner for refugees, Gillian Triggs, insisted that people fleeing war, conflict and persecution deserved empathy, adding: “They should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing.”

After Thursday’s meeting, Grandi tweeted that he had reiterated his concerns about the deal, adding: “Shifting asylum responsibilities is not the solution.” He said his agency, UNHCR, “will continue proposing concrete solutions that respect international law.” □

Associated Press

Finland brewery launches NATO beer with ‘taste of security’

By JARI TANNER

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — A small brewery in Finland has

launched a NATO-themed beer to mark the Nordic country’s bid to join the Western military alliance.

Olaf Brewing’s OTAN lager features a blue label with a cartoon version of a beer-drinking medieval knight in metal armor emblazoned with NATO’s compass symbol.

The beer’s name is a play on the Finnish expression “Otan olutta,” which means “I’ll have a beer,” and the French abbreviation for NATO, which is “OTAN.” The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has two official languages, English and French.

CEO Petteri Vanttinen

told The Associated Press on Thursday that the craft brewery’s ad hoc decision last weekend to start producing the beer was motivated by “worries over the war in Ukraine” and its consequences for Finland. He described the new lager as having “a taste of security, with a hint of freedom.”

Finland and Sweden on Wednesday submitted an application to join NATO at the alliance’s headquarters in Brussels.

Olaf Brewing said its new beer also honors the eastern Finnish town of Savonlinna, the brewery’s base located a few dozen kilo-

meters from Finland’s border with Russia.

Savonlinna is known for St. Olaf’s Castle, a medieval structure from 1475 that serves as a venue for an annual international opera festival.

“Our small hometown Savonlinna has always lied in the borderlands between East and West. Many battles have been fought in the town area and at St. Olaf’s Castle” the brewery said in a Twitter post.

Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) border with Russia, the longest of any European Union member. □



Beer cans with writing OTAN inspired by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) logo by Olaf Brewing Company are displayed in Savonlinna, eastern Finland, Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

Associated Press

Shaky Israeli coalition is jolted as another lawmaker quits

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Another member of Israel's parliament said Thursday she was quitting the ruling coalition, leaving embattled Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in control of a crumbling minority government.

Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi's announcement further whittles away Bennett's hold on Israel's 120-seat parliament, reducing the coalition to 59 seats. Two other legislators from his own party have already bolted.

Rinawie Zoabi's departure further raises the possibility of new parliamentary elections, less than a year after the government took office. While Bennett's government remains in power, it is now even more hamstrung in parliament and will likely struggle to function.

In a letter to Bennett, Rinawie Zoabi, who hails from the dovish Meretz party, said she was leaving the coalition because she said it too often adopted nationalist positions on issues of importance to her constituents, Palestinian citizens of Israel.



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, center, attends a cabinet meeting at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

She cited Israel's conduct at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, which in recent weeks has been the site of clashes between police and protesters, as well as continued settlement building and the beating by police of pallbearers at the funeral of a well-known Al Jazeera journalist shot while covering confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians.

"Enough. I cannot continue to support a coalition that in such a shameful way hounds the society from which I came," she wrote. Bennett, who leads a small, hard-line nationalist party, heads an unwieldy coalition of eight ideologically diverse factions from dovish ones that support Palestinian statehood to nationalist parties and even, for the first time in Israeli history,

an Islamist Arab party. They came together last June with little in common other than their drive to oust former leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who now heads the opposition.

Despite the differences among the coalition, it has managed to pass a budget, navigate the pandemic and strengthen relations with both the Biden administration and Israel's Arab

allies.

But a wave of Israeli-Palestinian tensions, set off by several deadly Palestinian attacks against Israel and Israeli arrest raids in the occupied West Bank, and fueled by repeated clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters at Al-Aqsa, has shaken the coalition's stability.

Mansour Abbas, the head of the Islamist party, briefly suspended his faction's membership in the coalition over the events, before rejoining shortly after.

Israel on Wednesday said it would allow a Jewish ultranationalist flag parade to snake through the heart of the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, what is likely to further escalate tensions

Bennett's coalition recently lost its own whip, Idit Silman, who said her nationalist values were being challenged under the diverse grouping. Bennett took steps following Silman's departure to shore up the coalition and punish defectors, but another deserter raises questions about the union's stability and how much longer it can hang on before crumbling entirely. □

Scandal-hit former king returns to Spain after 2 years

By ASHIFA KASSAM and CIARÁN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's former king returned to the country Thursday for his first visit since leaving nearly two years ago amid a cloud of financial scandals. Plans for the visit were confirmed earlier this week by the royal household, who said Juan Carlos I would first visit the northwestern town of Sanxenxo, where a yachting event is scheduled. He plans to travel to Madrid on Monday to see his son, King Felipe VI, and other members of the royal family, the palace said in a statement.

The royal palace says the 84-year-old ex-monarch would return Monday to his "permanent and stable residence" in Abu Dhabi,

capital of the United Arab Emirates. It said his visit to Spain reflects Juan Carlos' desire to "travel frequently to Spain to visit family and friends." Juan Carlos left Spain in August 2020 as Spanish and Swiss prosecutors investigated his involve-

ment in alleged financial wrongdoings. The scandals renewed a debate over whether Spain should have a monarchy.

On Thursday evening, the private flight carrying the former monarch landed in northwestern Spain. He



Spain's former King Juan Carlos waves during a bullfight at the bullring in Aranjuez, Madrid, Spain, Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Associated Press

did not speak to the media who had gathered to capture his arrival ahead of a three-day regatta in which his yacht, the "Bribón" which loosely translates as rascal is participating.

The news of his visit divided opinion among Spain's politicians.

"I think all Spanish citizens deserve an explanation," Spain's minister for economic affairs, Nadia Calviño, told broadcaster Cadena Ser on Thursday.

Yolanda Díaz, the second deputy prime minister and a senior member of the United We Can (Unidas Podemos) party, echoed that view.

"To me, it doesn't matter where the king is," she told reporters. "What I do believe, for the dignity of an institution like the Royal

House and this is coming from someone who is not a monarchist is that he should be held accountable and explain to Spaniards what he did while he was the head of state."

Others said it was time to turn the page.

"Prosecutors have already said that there were irregularities and that these irregularities are not subject to criminal prosecution," said Edmundo Bal, a spokesman for the Ciudadanos party. "That's it. Period."

Spanish prosecutors didn't find evidence to take the former monarch to court because much of the alleged misbehavior, involving millions of euros (dollars) in undeclared accounts, happened when Juan Carlos had legal immunity as Spain's king. □

East Timor celebrates independence anniversary, new leader

By GANTRY MEILANA

Associated Press

DILI, East Timor (AP) — Former East Timor independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta was sworn in as president of Asia's youngest country late Thursday as it marks its 20th anniversary of independence.

Crowds cheered as he then traveled by motorcade to Parliament, where a ceremony kicked off nationwide festivities commemorating independence from Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

Ramos-Horta, 72, who led the resistance during Indonesia's occupation, called for national reconciliation and unity as he took the oath of office shortly before midnight, the time the country declared independence 20 years ago.

"Today more than ever, we must be fully aware that only in unity will be able to achieve the development goals that we propose," he said. East Timor's transition to a democracy has been rocky, with leaders battling massive poverty, unemployment and corruption as the country continues to struggle with the legacy of its bloody independence battle and bitter factional politics that have occa-



Then East Timorese presidential candidate who is also former President Jose Ramos-Horta shows his inked finger after casting his ballot at a polling station during the election in Dili, East Timor on March 19, 2022.

sionally erupted into violence. Its economy is reliant on dwindling offshore oil revenues.

Ramos-Horta pledged to reduce poverty, improve health services for mothers and children, and promote a dialogue to restore political stability.

He said he expects East Timor to become the 11th member of the regional bloc the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the next two years.

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and

Indonesian Coordinating Minister of Political, Law and Security Affairs Mohammad Mahfud were among those who attended the inauguration.

Ramos-Horta defeated incumbent Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres, his fellow independence fighter, in an April 19 election runoff. He held a commanding lead among 16 candidates in the first round, but didn't receive the 50% threshold required for victory.

More than 76% of the votes went to resistance-era fig-

ures, showing how much they continue to dominate politics after two decades. "He is a great hero in the era of our struggle for independence," Aderito Herin Martins, a resident of the capital, Dili, said of Ramos-Horta.

"Now it's time for him to work on the critical issues of poverty and unemployment that still face our country as he promised in his campaign."

The U.N. estimates that nearly half of East Timor's population lives below the

extreme poverty line of \$1.90 a day, and for every 1,000 babies born in the country, 42 die before their fifth birthday because of malnutrition.

Residents voted overwhelmingly for independence in a 1999 referendum held under U.N. auspices, despite widespread Indonesian intimidation and violence. The vote had been unexpectedly offered by an overconfident Indonesian government following a long-running but largely fruitless resistance struggle.

Indonesia's military responded to the referendum results with a scorched-earth campaign that left East Timor devastated. Australia spearheaded a U.N. military mission to restore order from the chaos as the Indonesian forces left.

It took almost three more years for the half-island nation of just over 1 million people to become an independent and sovereign country on May 20, 2002.

Ramos-Horta lived in exile for almost three decades and returned to East Timor at the end of 1999, after he and Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 in recognition of their work "toward a just and peaceful solution to the conflict" in the country. □

Associated Press

Brazil's Lula gets married at 76 with a political touch

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the front-runner heading into Brazil's presidential election in October, was married Wednesday in a ceremony that had a political touch.

The 76-year-old leftist politician, who was president in 2003-2010 and leads incumbent far-right President Jair Bolsonaro in all opinion polls, wed sociologist Rosângela Silva, 55, before 150 guests who sang his old and new campaign songs more than once.

It was the third marriage for Lula, as he is known to Brazilians. His two previous wives Maria de Lourdes da Silva and Marisa Leticia died.

Lula started his relationship with his new wife, nicknamed Janja, in 2017, when he was in jail following corruption convictions that were later overturned by Brazil's Supreme Court.

"I decided to get married again because I believe Brazil can be fixed," Lula said during the Roman Catholic ceremony, according to a statement. "A man who is 76 years

old and is in love like I am, willing to get married, can only want good things for this country."

Lula's bio on social media channels was quickly updated to add that he is now "Janja's husband."

The wedding's location in Sao Paulo was kept secret until Wednesday afternoon due to fears of protests by Bolsonaro supporters, as have other events attended by Lula. Guests included politicians, old friends of the couple and artists, including Grammy award winner Gilberto Gil.

As they left, they received



In this photo released by the 2022 campaign press office of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Brazil's former president, Da Silva, left, and sociologist Rosangela Silva get married in Sao Paulo Brazil, Wednesday, May 18, 2022

.Associated Press

souvenirs with an embroidered inscription reading "O Amor Venceu" (Love has Won). Lula has sought to characterize the presi-



dential race as a fight between love and hatred, linking the latter in his speeches to Bolsonaro's campaign. □

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Harbour House Aruba officially open!

80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!

ORANJESTAD — 2021 was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios,

two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."



Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

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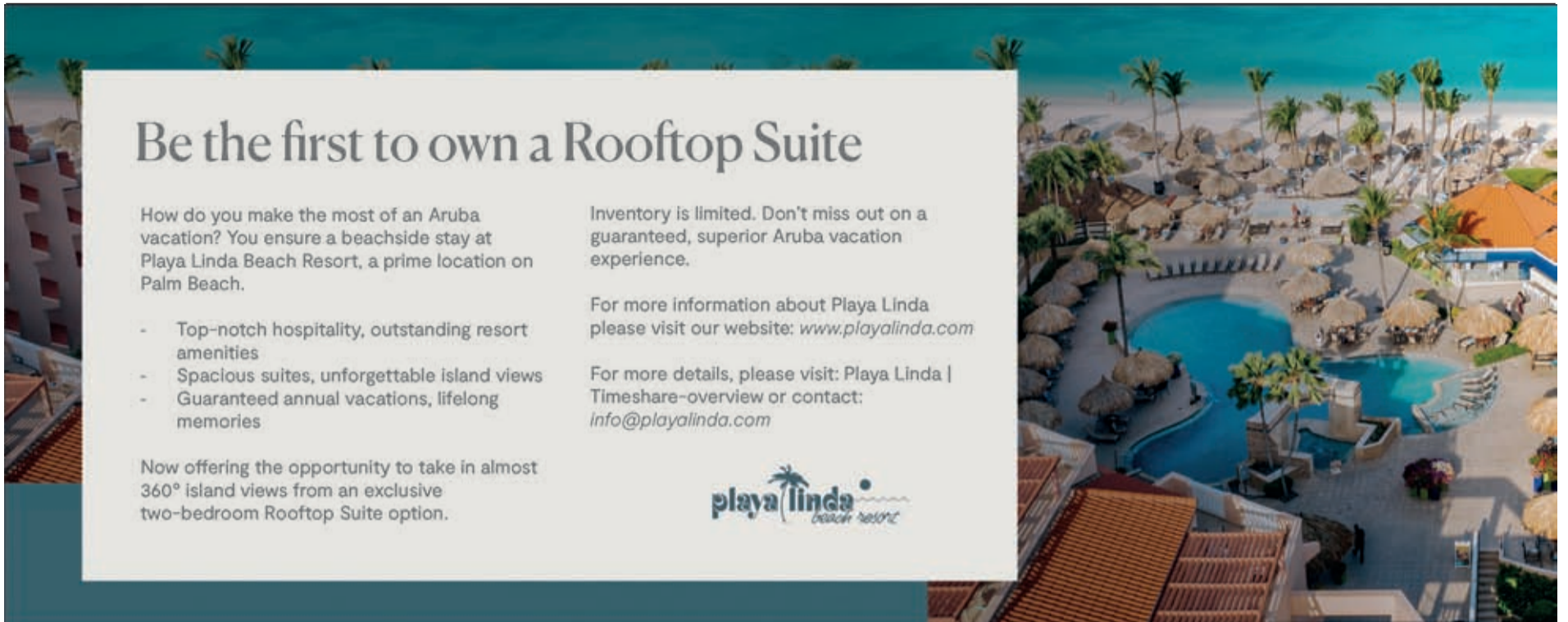
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Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD –We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is

Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your

vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? For today we have our lovely visitors Carmela and Joseph Villari who wrote to us saying, "We are back again as we decided to come to our favorite island in May to celebrate our birthdays. Aruba to me is our sweet escape." Thank you to our esteemed

visitors for sharing with us what Aruba means to them, and congratulations on your birthdays! When accepting our invitation to be featured in our Aruba To Me section, do note that by submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of



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out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. ☐

Honoring of a loyal visitor at Casa del Mar



EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honoree is **Brenda Maggy**, resident of North Hampton who has been honored as Goodwill Ambassador.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Ministe of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The wonderful visitors loves coming to the Island for All the new friends she has

made over the past 20 years, the beaches and beautiful water, the weather and always perfect facilities, amazing restaurants and the friendly, helpful and fun people of Aruba.

Boekhoudt together with the representatives of Casa del Mar presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. ☐



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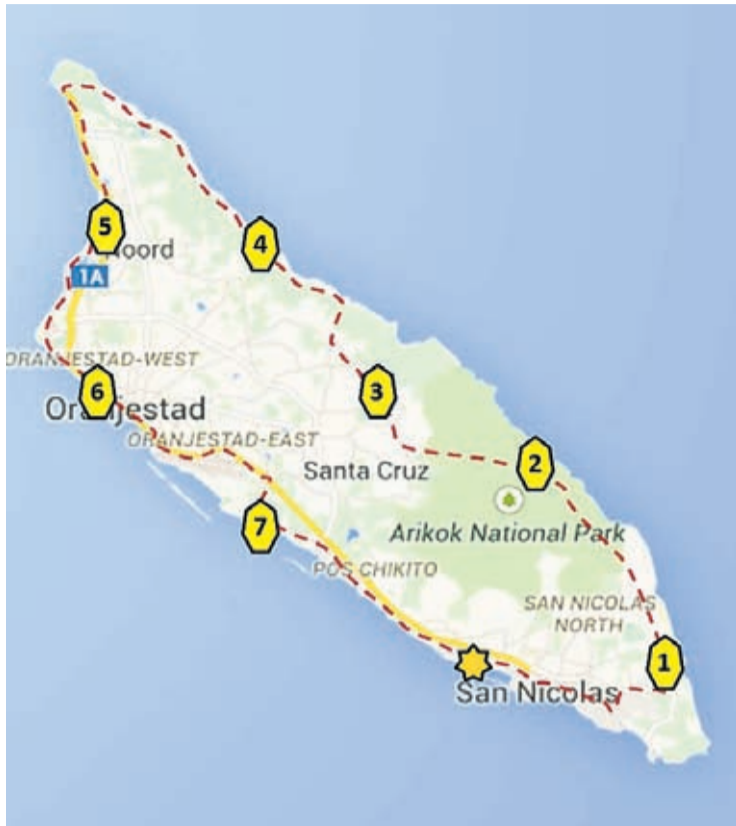
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Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com



Ronde van Aruba is ready to start!

The Ronde van Aruba will take place this Friday night. The first Runners will start at 8:00pm sharp from the

Mariniers Kazerne at Savaneta and the last runners at 11:42pm. They will have to run a total course of 72km around the Island.



Participation in the Ronde van Aruba is possible for everyone. There will be 18 runners that will do this as an individual runner. There are also Duo teams and relay teams of 4 runners, in total 181 teams.

Many Arubans and military personnel participate in this event. As the race is run in the dark, over paved and unpaved roads, it is a very big challenge for both the runner and the organization. Therefore we ask everyone driving between these hours to be careful and keep an eye open for these runners.



Let's all cheer up our runners. ☐

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is

Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics

had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is

the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but

the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. ☐



2022 is the year of all-inclusive travel, and here's why

By **SALLY FRENCH**
of **NerdWallet**

For some travelers, all-inclusive hotels conjure up images of flavorless food served under a heat lamp in lush and vibrant destinations where guests never actually leave the resort grounds. Lower-tier liquor flows freely (the good stuff will cost you more), as the few overindulgers put a damper on the trip.

That image is changing, as hotel companies expand their offerings, while redefining what all-inclusive means.

HOTELS ARE GROWING THEIR ALL-INCLUSIVE BRANDS

Many hotel companies are rapidly adding all-inclusive resorts to their portfolio. Hyatt's acquisition of Apple Leisure Group in November 2021 made it one of the largest owners of luxury all-inclusive resorts in the world.

That acquisition included the luxury-focused AMR Collection, which has beachfront properties in Mexico and Central America. That means there are now more than 100 new resorts for visitors (and where World of Hyatt members can use their points), up from about a dozen.

Just weeks before Hyatt's



In this Sept. 5, 2018, file photo guests stand at the front desk at the Embassy Suites by Hilton hotel in Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood in Seattle.

Associated Press

news, Marriott had also expanded its all-inclusive footprint by adding 20 properties under a new brand dubbed "All-Inclusive by Marriott Bonvoy."

LEANING TOWARD LUXURY BOTH ON AND OFF-PROPERTY

With these new all-inclusive offerings, hotels are emphasizing luxury. At Hyatt's Zoetry Montego Bay Jamaica, all accommodations include an in-house concierge. Some have private swim-out pools.

"The Zoetry Wellness & Spa Resorts brand is all about

exceptional amenities," says AMResorts senior vice president Miguel Oliveira. "There are no check-in or check-out times, unlimited top-shelf spirits and 24-hour concierge."

"Leisure demand has led the recovery, and we are well-positioned to continue growing our lead in resort destinations, including in the high growth all-inclusive space," he said. For example, among Marriott's recent additions is the Royalton Antigua, where visitors can stay in Antigua's only glass-floored, overwa-

ter bungalows.

And while the rooms are luxurious, increasingly more all-inclusive resorts promote getting outside the resort area. Twin Farms in Vermont offers ski equipment and fat-tire bikes for use on its private slopes. A partnership with Volvo allows guests to explore Vermont's countryside by taking a drive in vehicles made available by the resort. Nightly rates sometimes run close to \$6,000.

Baja Expeditions offers a glamping experience at San Ignacio Lagoon in Mex-

ico. Guests stay in wind-proof, heated tents with ensuite bathrooms, and head out on whale-watching excursions during the day. The four-day experience costs about \$5,000 for two guests and includes a charter flight to the lagoon.

REWRITING THE ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYBOOK

This year has provided travelers with a different type of all-inclusive experience when Walt Disney World Resort opened Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser. In its simplest form, it's Disney's "Star Wars" hotel, but it's a lot more than that. "The Galactic Starcruiser experience is part dinner mystery theater, part high-production show, part escape room, part video role-playing game, part cruise, and part resort stay all rolled into one," says Beci Mahnen, founder and CEO of travel agency MEI-Travel.

The cost starts between \$1,500 and \$2,400 per person for two nights and valet parking.

It includes activities such as lightsaber training, and tickets to the theme park. It also includes themed food like bantha dumplings, a beef-based dish supposedly made from "bantha," a fictional "Star Wars" mammalian beast. □

Spirit tells shareholders to reject hostile bid from JetBlue

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

Spirit Airlines is advising shareholders to reject a tender offer for shares from JetBlue three days after it went hostile in its bid to create what would be the nation's fifth largest airline.

Spirit repeated Thursday that any attempt to merge with the New York carrier would face substantial regulatory hurdles, largely because of JetBlue's alliance with American Airlines in the Northeast. The Justice Department is suing to block that deal.

JetBlue is in "the middle of a merger with American Airlines, one of the big three that they purport to compete with, and then

attempting to buy a competitor and take seats out of the market and raise fares and that's going to be a big issue and one that our board viewed as insur-

mountable," CEO Edward Christie told CNBC.

JetBlue responded Thursday, saying that Spirit's potential deal with Frontier also faces regulatory scru-

tiny.

"Both deals are subject to regulatory review, and both deals have a similar risk profile," the company said in a statement. "Spirit shareholders recognize that and are showing great interest in hearing more about our superior offer and the regulatory commitments and protections we have made, including a reverse break-up fee."

JetBlue offered to buy Spirit Airlines after a proposed acquisition of that carrier by Frontier Airlines, a deal that Spirit is backing despite a lower offering price. On Monday JetBlue launched a hostile takeover bid for Spirit, directly asking shareholders of the

low-cost carrier to vote down a tie-up with Colorado's Frontier Group Holdings Inc. The offer Monday from JetBlue was for \$30 per share in cash, or more than \$3.2 billion, but said its April 5 offer of \$33 per share is still available if Spirit enters negotiations.

Spirit's board rejected JetBlue's original \$3.6 billion bid on May 2.

Shareholders of Spirit, based in Miramar, Florida, are scheduled to vote June 10 on the cash-and-stock offer from Frontier, worth about \$2.9 billion when announced in February.

Shares of Spirit fell 2.6% before the market open, while shares of JetBlue declined slightly. □



A line of Spirit Airlines jets sit on the tarmac at the Orlando International Airport on May 20, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 40 Sean of 1 Pool floats "Rudy"
 - 6 To this 42 Bumbling time
 - 43 Oscar 11 Knuckle-head winner
 - Wither- 12 Writer spoon
 - Walker 44 Right now
 - 13 White of 45 Over TV

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Yesterday's answer

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5-20

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

T A E B V C N Z N J J V J X G N

T E M B E M Z L N X G N C V A F N X

J G N P J A Z X G N G N N F X G M X G M J

L E O J G N P V X — Y M E S X K M V Z

Yesterday's Cryptuquote: WE HAVE TO BELIEVE IN FREE WILL. WE HAVE NO CHOICE. — ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER



A pedestrian walks on a bridge above vehicle traffic in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, as the city is enveloped under thick smog.

Associated Press

Global pollution kills 9 million people a year, study finds

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

A new study blames pollution of all types for 9 million deaths a year globally, with the death toll attributed to dirty air from cars, trucks and industry rising 55% since 2000.

That increase is offset by fewer pollution deaths from primitive indoor stoves and water contaminated with human and animal waste, so overall pollution deaths in 2019 are about the same as 2015. The United States is the only fully industrialized country in the top 10 nations for total pollution deaths, ranking 7th with 142,883 deaths blamed on pollution in 2019, sandwiched between Bangladesh and Ethiopia, according to a new study in the journal *The Lancet Planetary Health*. Tuesday's pre-pandemic study is based on calculations derived from the Global Burden of Disease database and the Institute for Health Metrics

and Evaluation in Seattle. India and China lead the world in pollution deaths with nearly 2.4 million and almost 2.2 million deaths a year, but the two nations also have the world's largest populations.

When deaths are put on a per population rate, the United States ranks 31st from the bottom at 43.6 pollution deaths per 100,000. Chad and the Central African Republic rank the highest with rates about 300 pollution deaths per 100,000, more than half of them due to tainted water, while Brunei, Qatar and Iceland have the lowest pollution death rates ranging from 15 to 23. The global average is 117 pollution deaths per 100,000 people.

Pollution kills about the same number of people a year around the world as cigarette smoking and second-hand smoke combined, the study said.

"9 million deaths is a lot

of deaths," said Philip Landrigan, director of the Global Public Health Program and Global Pollution Observatory at Boston College. "The bad news is that it's not decreasing," Landrigan said. "We're making gains in the easy stuff and we're seeing the more difficult stuff, which is the ambient (outdoor industrial) air pollution and the chemical pollution, still going up."

It doesn't have to be this way, researchers said. The certificates for these deaths don't say pollution. They list heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, other lung issues and diabetes that are "tightly correlated" with pollution by numerous epidemiological studies, Landrigan said. To then put these together with actual deaths, researchers look at the number of deaths by cause, exposure to pollution weighted for various factors, and then complicated exposure response calculations derived by large epidemiological studies based on thousands of people over decades of study, he said. It's the same way scientists can say cigarettes cause cancer and heart disease deaths.

"That cannon of information constitutes causality," Landrigan said. "That's how we do it." □

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Twitter policy aims to pierce fog of war misinformation

By **DAVID KLEPPER**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter is stepping up its fight against misinformation with a new policy cracking down on posts that spread potentially dangerous false stories. The change is part of a broader effort to promote accurate information during times of conflict or crisis.

Starting Thursday, the platform will no longer automatically recommend or emphasize posts that make misleading claims about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, including material that mischaracterizes conditions in conflict zones or makes false allegations of war crimes or atrocities against civilians.

Under its new "crisis misinformation policy," Twitter will also add warning labels to debunked claims about ongoing humanitarian crises, the San Francisco-based company said. Users won't be able to like, forward or respond to posts that violate the new rules. The changes make Twitter the latest social platform to grapple with the misinformation, propaganda and rumors that have proliferated since Russia invaded Ukraine in February. That misinformation ranges from rumors spread by well-intentioned users to Kremlin propaganda amplified by Russian diplomats or fake accounts and networks linked to Russian intelligence.

"We have seen both sides share information that may be misleading and/or deceptive," said Yoel Roth, Twitter's head of safety and integrity, who detailed the new policy for reporters. "Our policy doesn't draw a distinction between the different combatants. Instead, we're focusing on misinformation that could be dangerous, regardless of where it comes from."

The new policy will complement existing Twitter rules that prohibit digitally manipulated media, false claims about elections and voting, and health misinformation, including



A destroyed tank near the village of Malaya Rohan, Kharkiv region, Ukraine, Monday, May 16, 2022.

debunked claims about COVID-19 and vaccines. But it could also clash with the views of Tesla billionaire Elon Musk, who has agreed to pay \$44 billion to acquire Twitter with the aim of making it a haven for "free speech." Musk hasn't addressed many instances of what that would mean in practice, although he has said that Twitter should only take down posts that violate the law, which taken literally would prevent action against most misinformation, personal attacks and harassment. He has also criticized the algorithms used by Twitter

and other social platforms to recommend particular posts to individuals. The policy was written broadly to cover misinformation during other conflicts, natural disasters, humanitarian crises or "any situation where there's a widespread threat to health and safety," Roth said.

Twitter said it will rely on a variety of credible sources to determine when a post is misleading. Those sources will include humanitarian groups, conflict monitors and journalists. A senior Ukrainian cybersecurity official, Victor Zhora,

welcomed Twitter's new screening policy and said that it's up to the global community to "find proper approaches to prevent the sowing of misinformation across social networks." □

Associated Press

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
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Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks

Sales
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists
Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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With sequel plans, Rob Reiner turns 'Spinal Tap' up to 11

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) —

One of the most memorable lines — and Rob Reiner's personal favorite — of "This Is Spinal Tap" goes: "There's a fine line between stupid and clever."

You could say the same thing about the classic 1984 mockumentary. It could have so easily not panned out. No one in Hollywood thought it was a good idea. It was saved by Norman Lear who, after Reiner made his pitch and departed, is said to have turned to the executives in the room and announced: "Who's going to tell him he can't do it?"

Now, Reiner and company want to get the band back together for a sequel. Reiner was at the Cannes Film Festival this week for an anniversary screening on the beach of "This Is Spinal Tap" and to drum up excitement for the just-announced sequel that will also see Michael McKean, Harry Shearer, and Christopher Guest reprise their roles as band members David St. Hubbins, Derek Smalls and Nigel Tufnel.

"The bar is high. There's no question about it," Reiner said in an interview by the beach. "And we wrestled with that forever, whether or not we should even bother to do it. But we had an idea. Over the years,



Rob Reiner poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'This is Spinal Tap' at the 75th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

Associated Press

people have come up and said, 'Oh, you should do a sequel.' We've always said, 'No, no, no.' But as time went by, we finally had something we think can work. And we'll find out!"

The 1984 movie had no script, just a four-page outline. It was almost entirely improvised. Reiner's first cut of the film was seven hours long. Even the jokes they did have planned — like the infamous "these amps goes to 11" scene — were filmed off-the-cuff.

"Quick!" Reiner recalls shouting. "Make an amp with an extra number on it!" But what teetered so close

to never panning out in the first place, has of course become one of the most beloved comedies of the '80s and a massive influence to countless mockumentaries that have followed. It is even in the Library of Congress. Reiner assures that this time, too, there will be no screenplay. He will depend on the still sharp improvisational talents of his cast, who have carried on Spinal Tap — a fictional band turned into a semi-real one — in occasional concerts in the intervening decades. Reiner's character, the director Marti DeBergi (styled after Martin Scorsese in

The Band concert documentary "The Last Waltz"), will naturally return. "Here we are 40 years later and Marti DeBergi — who has not been the greatest filmmaker, let's put it that way. The man made 'Kramer vs. Kramer vs. Godzilla.' And I think he did 'Attack of the 52-Foot Woman,'" says Reiner. "Because he said there's going to be this reunion, we wanted to make this film, and we've given him free reign."

When "This Is Spinal Tap" was first released, many thought Spinal Tap was a real band. Reiner, who studied rock documentaries

like "The Kids Are Alright" and "The Song Remains the Same" for preparation, enlisted a cinematographer, Peter Smokler, with a documentary background. What was real and what was parody was almost indistinguishable. Sting, Reiner says, has since told him he watched it countless times but didn't know if he should laugh or cry.

Asked if Scorsese ever spoke to him about Reiner's riff on him, Reiner responds: "Initially, Marty got mad. But over the years, he's come to love it. We did 'Wolf of Wall Street' a few years ago and we talked about it. He said, 'Ah, I love it. I love that you did that.'"

"The Last Waltz" will again be a major touchstone for the sequel which Reiner is developing for his relaunched production company Castle Rock. Reiner's plan entails Spinal Tap reconvening for one last show. Many of Reiner's most beloved films are seemingly sequel-proof. Recapturing the tone of "The Princess Bride"? Inconceivable. (Writer William Goldman did try, though.) And it's just as hard to imagine the magic of "Stand by Me" or "When Harry Met Sally" being captured a second time. But "Spinal Tap," Reiner thinks, isn't done rocking. "If you have an idea," he says, "then you say, 'OK.'"



Wynonna Judd looks up after singing during a tribute to her mother, country music star Naomi Judd, Sunday, May 15, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn. Naomi Judd died April 30. She was 76.

Associated Press

By KRISTIN M. HALL

AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Country stars Faith Hill,

Trisha Yearwood, Brandi Carlile, Little Big Town, Martina McBride and Ashley McBryde will join Wynonna

Female country stars to join Wynonna Judd on tour this fall

Judd on tour this fall after the sudden death of her mother and musical partner, Naomi Judd. The mother-daughter duo's final tour together was scheduled to start in September. But Judd died April 30 at age 76, one day before they were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Wynonna Judd announced at a public memorial that she wanted to continue with the tour.

A final stop of the tour has been added in their home state of Kentucky with a

show in Lexington at Rupp Arena on Oct. 29 with Hill as the special guest.

"I am humbled, once again, by the loyalty of the fans who have been with us for 38+ years, who continue to show up for me when I need them the most," Wynonna Judd said in a statement Thursday.

McBride will open the show on select nights. The Grammy-winning Judds scored 14 No. 1 songs in a career that spanned three decades. The red-headed duo combined the

traditional Appalachian sounds of bluegrass with polished pop stylings, scoring hit after hit in the 1980s. The Judds' hits included "Love Can Build a Bridge" in 1990, "Mama He's Crazy" in 1984, "Why Not Me" in 1984, "Turn It Loose" in 1988, "Girls Night Out" in 1985, "Rockin' With the Rhythm of the Rain" in 1986 and "Grandpa" in 1986. In a statement provided to The Associated Press, the family said they lost Naomi Judd to "the disease of mental illness."

Oldani earns first professional win, López keeps Giro lead

GENOA, Italy (AP) — Italian cyclist Stefano Oldani claimed his first professional victory by winning the 12th and longest stage of the Giro d'Italia while Juan Pedro López kept the pink jersey on Thursday.

Oldani, who rides for Alpecin-Fenix, edged compatriot Lorenzo Rota by half a bike length, and Dutch cyclist Gijs Leemreize was third at the end of the 204-kilometer (127-mile) route from Parma to Genoa.

All three riders were looking for their first World Tour win and were all wary of each other.

Leemreize opened up his sprint first, but Oldani kicked in and held on for the win.

Oldani burst into joyful tears after crossing the line. He was the second Italian to win in as many days after a wait of 11 days in their home race.

"For sure it was not easy," Oldani said. "I knew Rota, he's my friend, so I knew that he was also fast, so I had to watch out ... it was not so easy to manage it but in the end I did it. I still can't believe it, I couldn't



Italy's Stefano Oldani celebrates winning the 12th stage of the Giro D'Italia cycling race from Parma to Genoa, Italy, Thursday, May 19, 2022.

stop crying before because I worked really, really hard for this. It seems like magic that I've done it."

The trio was part of a large breakaway that eventually got up the road after a frantic start with lots of attempts to escape the peloton.

The group had an advan-

tage of over five minutes on the first of the three third-category climbs, the Passo del Bocco.

It was the first time the climb featured in the Giro since the death of Belgian cyclist Wouter Weylandt during the race in 2011. The race honored Weylandt on the descent where he crashed.

Rota, Oldani and Leemreize attacked from the 25-man breakaway group on the second categorized climb of the day and swiftly built a lead, which they worked well together to maintain on the tough final ascent.

Bauke Mollema led the chasing group across the

line, 57 seconds behind Oldani. The peloton was more than nine minutes behind. López maintained his 12-second lead overall from Richard Carapaz and João Almeida. The 24-year-old Spaniard, who rides for Trek-Segafredo, has worn the maglia rosa since finishing second on Stage 4 on Etna.

"My objective was to try to win some stages, but now I live a dream, nine days in the maglia rosa is amazing," López said.

Friday's 13th stage is the final one for the sprinters although there is a steep, third-category climb in the first half of the 150-kilometer (93-mile) route from San Remo to Cuneo.

One of the top sprinters will not be there as Caleb Ewan pulled out before the start of Thursday's stage. The Australian struggled since crashing on the opening day and had always said he would leave the Giro before the finish in order to focus on the Tour de France.

The Giro finishes in 10 days in Verona. □

Associated Press

Naomi Osaka gets rematch as she returns to French Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Naomi Osaka will not have the luxury of easing into her return to the courts of the French Open, facing a tough foe in her very first match.

Week 2 at Roland Garros, meanwhile, could be quite fascinating for Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz — the three leading favorites for the men's title ended up on the same side of the bracket for the clay-court Grand Slam tournament, meaning only one can reach the final. Thursday's draw at Roland Garros also set up two tantalizing possibilities in the fourth round for No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek, the 2020 champion who is currently on a 28-match winning streak. She might need to go up against 2018 champion Simona Halep at that stage or 2017 champion Jelena Ostapenko —

who just so happens to be the last woman to defeat Swiatek. The tournament begins Sunday.

Osaka is a four-time Grand Slam champion who used to be No. 1 in the rankings but has slipped to No. 38 in part because of a lack of activity. That included time off for a mental health break after she withdrew from Roland Garros ahead of her second-round match last year, revealing that she has dealt with anxiety and depression.

Because she is not seeded at the French Open, she was not safe from facing a seeded opponent right away, so that's what will happen against No. 27 Amanda Anisimova, a 20-year-old American who was a 2019 semifinalist in Paris. Anisimova won their third-round encounter at the Australian Open in January by a score of 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5). Osaka was the de-

fending champion at Melbourne Park.

The possible women's quarterfinals in Paris are Swiatek against two-time major runner-up Karolina Pliskova, and No. 3 seed Paula Badosa against No. 7 Aryna Sabalenka on the top half of the field, and defending champion Barbora Krejčíková against No. 5 Anett Kontaveit, and No. 4 Maria Sakkari against No. 6 Ons Jabeur on the bottom half. Last year, in her first time in the main draw of singles at the French Open, Krejčíková won both that trophy — the player she beat in the final, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, announced this week her season is done because of an injured knee — along with women's doubles.

So it makes sense that Krejčíková used phrases such as "extremely amazing" and "something incredible" while discussing what happened in 2021 during



Men's single, left, and women's single cups are displayed during the draw of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Associated Press

a brief appearance at the draw ceremony and noted with a smile: "This clay suits me."

Djokovic, who is the defending champion and seeded No. 1, could meet Nadal in the quarterfinals. A year ago, Djokovic beat Nadal in the semifinals, before erasing a two-set deficit against Stefanos Tsitsi-

pas to win the final.

"I am very motivated to play my best tennis," Djokovic said in French on Thursday, as he marked his chance to get back on the Grand Slam stage after missing the Australian Open because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 (the French Open has no such requirement). □

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Mcllroy powers to a 65 for early lead at PGA Championship



Rory McIlroy, of North Ireland, watches his tee shot as Tiger Woods looks on, on the 17th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament, Thursday, May 19, 2022, in Tulsa, Okla.

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Tiger Woods made it sound as though Rory McIlroy played a brand of golf with which he wasn't familiar Thursday in the PGA Championship. McIlroy looked free and easy and saw only opportunity at Southern Hills. He blasted his driver over trees and into fairways, setting up some of his seven birdies that carried him to a 5-under 65 and an early one-shot lead.

Woods picked his spots and was never terribly crisp on a right leg he said felt worse than it did at the Masters last month. He fell apart in the middle of his round and at the end, finishing with two bogeys for a 74 and his worst start to a PGA since

2015.

It was just what McIlroy needed as he tries to end nearly eight years without a major, many of those chances doomed by bad starts. This was his lowest start to par since a 5-under 66 when he won the PGA at Valhalla in 2014, the last of his four majors.

"I think when your game is feeling like that, it's just a matter of going out there and really sticking to your game plan, executing as well as you possibly can and just sort of staying in your own little world," McIlroy said.

"I feel like this course, it lets you be pretty aggressive off the tee if you want to be, so I hit quite a lot of drivers out there and took advantage of my length and

finished that off with some nice iron play and some nice putting."

Will Zalatoris and Pebble Beach winner Tom Hoge each opened with a 66, while Matt Kuchar and Abraham Ancer were another shot behind.

McIlroy and Woods were joined in the group by Jordan Spieth, who lacks only this major to complete the career Grand Slam and arrived in Tulsa with his game in good form. But a series of missed birdie chances was followed by a series of missed par putts, and Spieth never quite recovered. He had a late birdie and saved par on his final hole at No. 9 for a 72.

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler was among those who played in the af-

ternoon, as the heat index crept toward 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32.2 Celsius).

The difference between McIlroy and Woods was clear early in the round. On the 461-yard 12th hole, Woods hit iron off the tee that left him 178 yards. McIlroy pounded driver with a slight fade with the prevailing breeze, leaving him 86 yards.

He hit lob wedge to a foot for birdie.

That was the start of four straight birdies for McIlroy, which included a 6-iron to 25 feet for his longest birdie of the day at the par-3 14th.

McIlroy made birdie on the two par 5s from greenside bunkers, hitting a 3-iron both times on the 628-yard 13th and the 665-yard fifth. He hit another big drive on the tough par-4 second, leaving 7-iron to about 10 feet. That one felt like a bonus to him.

"You go out there and hit driver a lot, and if you have a hot week, you have a hot week and you're up there," Woods said. "The game is just different. It's much more aggressive now, and I know that. But I was playing to my spots. If I would have hit the ball solidly on those two holes and put the ball in the fairway, I would have been fine."

He was speaking of No. 4, where he put iron in the rough and McIlroy hit a 327-yard drive up the hill and into the wind that left him a flip wedge to the green (he missed an 8-foot putt); and the ninth hole, when Woods' tee shot hit a tree

and left him a 4-iron to the green. The bigger concern was his leg. Woods has said he has good days and bad from a leg badly injured in his February 2021 car crash, and this didn't look like a great one. Of equal concern was going into Friday nine shots behind McIlroy and likely having to fight to make the cut.

The warmth — not oven heat like the 2007 PGA in August — and mild wind led to ideal scoring, though Southern Hills still had enough defense.

Only 17 of the 78 players from the morning wave broke par.

"I don't think a major champion here has ever been double digits under par, so you know the scores aren't going to go much further," Hoge said. "It's a grind out here. If you get out of position in the rough here, it's tough to control the golf ball around these greens because they can get running off so fast. You just try to keep it simple."

One other part of Southern Hills' history with seven previous majors: Five of the champions had at least a share of the 18-hole lead.

Xander Schauffele was in the group at 68, while Tony Finau was among those at 69.

John Daly tried to revive some memories at age 56 and with a beard longer than any rough at Southern Hills. He opened with a 67 in 2007 and was 2 under through 10 holes until fading at the end with four bogeys over his last five holes for a 72. □